

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously presented) A well drilling and servicing fluid which can be continuously circulated in a borehole comprising an aqueous liquid, a polymer which increases the low shear rate viscosity of the fluid to the extent that the thixotropic index of the fluid is at least 10, a surfactant, and aphrons which are generated by the encapsulation of gas in the fluid by a thin aqueous surfactant-containing shell wherein the surfactant molecules are so positioned that they produce an effective barrier against coalescence with adjacent aphrons, the fluid containing less than about 11% by volume of aphrons.
2. (Original) The well drilling and servicing fluid of Claim 1 wherein the polymer is a biopolymer.
3. (Currently amended) The well drilling and servicing fluid of Claim 1 or 2 wherein the surfactant provides an average percent expansion of a sand bed of the least about 50% when evaluated according to the following test procedure: to a low temperature, low pressure API filtration cell (API Recommended Practice 13 B-1), the cylindrical body of which is made from Plexiglass of thickness 0.5 inch (1.3 centimeters) is added 200 grams of sand having a particle size in the range from 50 mesh to 70 mesh (297  $\mu\text{m}$  to 210  $\mu\text{m}$ ); this provides a sand bed depth of 2.1 centimeters; no filter paper is used in the cell; 350 cc of the fluid to be tested is slowly added to the cell, the cell assembled, and 100 psi nitrogen pressure applied; the pressure is released after the nitrogen blows through the bed for 30 seconds so as to form bubbles; upon releasing the pressure the sand bed will expand in volume/height as the bubbles in the sand bed expand; the expansion is not even, and an average increase in height of the bed as measured at the cell wall and an at the center of the sand bed is obtained; wherein the test fluid comprises 4.285  $\text{kg/m}^3$  of well hydrated xanthan gum in water and 2.857  $\text{kg/m}^3$  of the surfactant to be tested, wherein the surfactant is

dispersed in the xanthan gum dispersion by very low shear mixing to prevent the formation of a foam.

4. (Previously presented) A recirculateable drilling fluid, comprising:  
an aqueous liquid;  
a viscosifier that increases the low shear rate viscosity of the fluid to the extent that the shear thinning index of the fluid is at least 10;  
a surfactant; and  
aphrons, wherein the aphrons comprise less than about 11% by volume of the fluid.
5. (Previously presented) A recirculateable drilling fluid according to claim 4 wherein the aphrons comprise less than about 6.5% by volume of the aphrons.
6. (Previously presented) A recirculateable servicing fluid, comprising:  
an aqueous liquid;  
a viscosifier that increases the low shear rate viscosity of the fluid to the extent that the shear thinning index of the fluid is at least 10;  
a surfactant; and  
aphrons, wherein the aphrons comprise less than about 11% by volume of the fluid.
7. (Previously presented) A recirculateable servicing fluid according to claim 6 wherein the aphrons comprise less than about 6.5% by volume of the aphrons.
8. (Previously presented) The drilling or servicing fluid according to claims 4 or 6 wherein the aphrons prevent loss of excess fluid in a formation.
9. (Original) The drilling or servicing fluid according to claims 4 or 6 wherein the aphrons are generated by encapsulation of gas in the fluid by a thin aqueous surfactant-containing shell wherein the surfactant molecules are so positioned that they produce an effective barrier against coalescence with adjacent aphrons.

10 (Previously presented) The drilling or servicing fluid according to claims 4 or 6 wherein the aphrons effectively seal a formation.

11. (Original) The drilling or servicing fluid of claims 4 or 6 wherein the viscosifier is a polymer.

12. (Original) The drilling or servicing fluid of claim 11 wherein the polymer is a polysaccharide.

13. (Original) The drilling or servicing fluid of claim 11 wherein the polymer is a biopolymer.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A drilling fluid, comprising:  
an aqueous liquid;  
~~according to claim 14 wherein the~~ a viscosifier that increases the low shear rate viscosity of  
the fluid to the extent that the ~~shear thinning~~ thixotropic index of the fluid is at least 10;  
a surfactant; and  
aphrons.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) A servicing fluid, comprising:  
an aqueous liquid;  
~~according to claim 16 wherein the~~ a viscosifier that increases the low shear rate viscosity  
of the fluid to the extent that the ~~shear thinning~~ thixotropic index of the fluid is at least 10;  
a surfactant; and  
aphrons.

18. (Currently amended) The drilling or servicing fluid according to claims ~~14 or 16~~ 15 or 17 wherein the fluid is recirculateable.

19. (Currently amended) The drilling or servicing fluid according to claims ~~14 or 16~~ 15 or 17 wherein the aphrons comprise less than about 11% by volume of the fluid.

20. (Currently amended) The drilling or servicing fluid according to claims ~~14 or 16~~ 15 or 17 wherein the aphrons comprise less than about 6.5% by volume of the fluid.

21. (Currently amended) The drilling or servicing fluid of claims ~~14 or 16~~ 15 or 17 wherein the viscosifier is a polymer.

22. (Previously presented) The drilling fluid of claim 21 wherein the polymer is a biopolymer.

23. (Currently amended) The drilling fluid of claim 14 15 wherein the surfactant molecules are so positioned that they produce an effective barrier against coalescence with adjacent aphrons.

24. (Previously presented) The drilling fluid of claim 21 wherein the aphrons comprise less than about 11% by volume of the fluid.

25. (Previously presented) The drilling fluid of claim 21 wherein the aphrons comprise less than about 6.5% by volume of the fluid.

26. (Previously presented) The drilling fluid of claim 21 wherein the fluid is recirculateable.

27. (Previously presented) The drilling fluid of claim 26 wherein the polymer increases the low shear rate viscosity of the fluid to the extent that the thixotropic index of the fluid is at least 10.

28. (Previously presented) The drilling fluid of claim 27 wherein the aphrons comprise less than about 11% by volume of the fluid.

29. (Previously presented) The drilling fluid of claim 27 wherein the aphrons comprise less than about 6.5% by volume of the fluid.
30. (Currently amended) The drilling fluid of claim 44 15 wherein the aphrons prevent loss of excess drilling fluid in a formation.
31. (Currently amended) The drilling fluid of claim 44 15 wherein the aphrons effectively seal a formation.
32. (Previously presented) The servicing fluid of claim 21 wherein the polymer is a biopolymer.
33. (Currently amended) The servicing fluid of claim 46 17 wherein the surfactant molecules are so positioned that they produce an effective barrier against coalescence with adjacent aphrons.
34. (Previously presented) The servicing fluid of claim 21 wherein the aphrons comprise less than about 11% by volume of the fluid.
35. (Previously presented) The servicing fluid of claim 21 wherein the aphrons comprise less than about 6.5% by volume of the fluid.
36. (Previously presented) The servicing fluid of claim 21 wherein the fluid is recirculateable.
37. (Previously presented) The servicing fluid of claim 36 wherein the polymer increases the low shear rate viscosity of the fluid to the extent that the thixotropic index of the fluid is at least 10.
38. (Previously presented) The servicing fluid of claim 37 wherein the aphrons comprise less than about 11% by volume of the fluid.

39. (Previously presented) The servicing fluid of claim 37 wherein the aphrons comprise less than about 6.5% by volume of the fluid.

40. (Currently amended) The servicing fluid of claim ~~16~~ 17 wherein the aphrons prevent loss of excess servicing fluid in a formation.

41. (Currently amended) The servicing fluid of claim ~~16~~ 17 wherein the aphrons effectively seal a formation.